

ALLIES VIRTUALLY DECIDED TO ADMIT RUSSIA AS MEMBER OF PEACE CONGRESS BUT ARE IN DOUBT CONCERNING DETAILS

The Problem at Present Is How and When She Shall Be Represented, and That Continues to Be Uppermost in the Minds of the Delegates of the Allies.

NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS TO BE ADMITTED SATURDAY

WILL WITHDRAW AFTER HEARING POINCARÉ

Then the Conference Will Proceed to Take Up the Important Work of Framing a Treaty of Peace.

Paris, Jan. 17.—The question of Russia continues to be one of the most important before the supreme council of the peace conference. The problem at present principally concerns how and when she shall be represented before the conference, for opinion in conference circles is that she must be represented.

The position of the council regarding publicity is considered to-day as likely to be modified, and it was believed, by the assembling of the council to-day, that the press would be admitted on Saturday to hear President Poincaré's speech before the full assembly. In such case, however, the newspaper men would withdraw when the real business before the conference was taken up.

The separate representation accorded the British colonies in the peace conference having unfavorably impressed the French colonial world, the Havas agency has issued a note pointing out that reason of the interchangeability of the delegates the French government can, when necessary, call in specially qualified plenipotentiaries, and that thus the different colonial problems will be discussed with all the necessary safeguards.

AMERICANS ARE READY FOR THE OPEN SESSIONS OF PEACE CONFERENCE

They Are Said to Be Supported by the British—Rule of Secrecy Is Held in Abeyance at Request of President Wilson.

Paris, Thursday, Jan. 16 (By the Associated Press).—At the instance of President Wilson, the supreme inter-allied council decided to-day to hold in abeyance the proposed rule for virtual secrecy regarding its deliberations beyond information given in official statements. It was also decided to request representatives of the British, American and Italian press to present some plan for reporting the meeting.

It was said in American circles here to-day that the strictness of yesterday's action was not unwelcome to the British and American officials, who were willing to work for a broader rule, which would open the proceedings to public view.

British correspondents met and adopted resolutions that on British press representative be admitted to sittings of the congress. American correspondents also adopted resolutions, declaring they would be satisfied with nothing less than free access to all deliberations.

These resolutions were brought before a meeting attended by representatives of the press from all the nations associated in the war against Germany. In American official circles, it was recalled that before President Wilson's departure for Europe it was announced officially at Washington that, at the president's personal request, both the British and French governments had raised all censorship restrictions on news dispatches to American concerning the peace congress.

President Clemenceau spoke this afternoon in the chamber of deputies on the decision to keep proceedings of the peace congress secret.

"We have not yet found a final form in which communications from the peace congress will be made," he said, "but in a general way, the principle of publicity has met with favor."

Here he was interrupted by Deputy Mistrail, who said: "Except by you, M. Clemenceau."

"I have the honor to emphatically deny that statement," the premier rejoined. "We all should like to keep proceedings secret, so that it may not be said that such and such a country made such and such a proposition, which has been fought by such and such other governments. We are unanimous in thinking that that might create a bad feeling. We think that in the preliminary conversations we must, at all costs, arrive at an agreement so that there shall be a solid front at the general discussion."

"If we wish to form a league of nations, writing phrases is insufficient. There must be a prevailing spirit which will insure the life of this league of nations. We would like to finish this war by a full agreement of the civilized nations for a supreme ideal of a better humanity."

BARCELONA, SPAIN, IS IN A FERMENT

Spanish Government Has Published a Decree Suspending Constitutional Guarantees for That Province.

London, Jan. 17.—The Spanish government has published a decree suspending constitutional guarantees in the province of Barcelona, according to a wireless dispatch received here from Madrid.

Barcelona and the province of which it is the capital has been the center of recent agitation in favor of autonomy for Catalonia. After disturbances in Barcelona and other parts of Catalonia early in December, the Spanish government offered to submit the demands of Catalonia to a parliamentary committee. A Madrid dispatch on Jan. 4 reported that a commission of political leaders of Spain had decided in favor of autonomy for Catalonia and it was expected the matter would be brought before the Spanish Parliament when it resumed its sessions on Jan. 2.

CHINESE I. W. W. DEN IN NEW YORK RAIDED

Four Men Arrested on a Technical Charge Carried Loaded Revolvers—Much I. W. W. Literature Was Seized.

New York, Jan. 17.—What the police claim was the headquarters of the Chinese representatives of the Industrial Workers of the World in New York, located in the heart of Chinatown, was raided early to-day and four men, who said they were students, were arrested on a technical charge. Loaded revolvers were found on the men, the police claim, and a great quantity of I. W. W. literature was seized. According to the police, the accused have been visiting Chinese restaurants in this vicinity, spreading I. W. W. propaganda and advising employees to strike for shorter hours and higher wages.

SUSPEND REGULATION OF COAL PRICES

Fuel Administration Expects Pennsylvania Anthracite, and Change Goes into Effect Feb. 1.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17.—Zone and price regulations on coals and all coal, except Pennsylvania anthracite, were suspended by the fuel administration to-day, effective Feb. 1.

Suspension of the price regulations includes provisions touching purchasing agents, commissions and wholesale and retail margins. Notice is given that the suspension is subject to reinstatement if price, wage, labor, production or other conditions arise that require it.

FOUND DEAD IN BED.

Miss Mina R. Sampson of Weybridge Was Seen Wednesday.

Weybridge, Jan. 17.—Miss Mina R. Sampson was found dead in bed at her home in Weybridge Thursday morning by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Clark and H. L. Thompson of this village. Miss Sampson was up and around and seemed as well as usual Wednesday, when last seen on that day, but as there was no stir at the home Thursday morning these people went to the house and tried to gain admittance, which they were unable to do so a window was pried open and Mr. Clark went into the house and found that Miss Sampson had died during the night.

Miss Sampson was born in Bridport in February, 1845, where she resided for a while, but had spent the most of her life in Middlebury and Weybridge, living for about 35 years in the latter. She had for some time carried on a small store at her home in that hamlet and was one of the most respected residents of that hamlet and all who knew her say that she was the kindest of women on that ever lived. She was a member of the Congregational church of Weybridge and an interested worker in it as well as in all public matters. She is survived by an nephew, Willis Cobb, of New York City.

AMERICAN SHIPPING HAS 1,663 BIG BOATS

With a Total Gross Tonnage of 5,565,856, Practically All of Which Were Steam Vessels.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17.—Seagoing American merchant ships of 1,000 gross tons or over numbered 1,663 on Jan. 1 of this year, the department of commerce reported to-day, and the total gross tonnage was 5,565,856. All were steam vessels except 319 sailing craft of 518,192 tons. The department also reported 55 foreign merchant ships operated by the war and navy departments as transports or in other services which remove them from the merchant marine schedules, and placed their tonnage at 396,829. The total number of ships registered under all government departments was 1,141, and the gross tonnage 3,681,700.

WILL LAND IN NEW YORK.

Troops Aboard Battleships Louisiana and New Hampshire.

Newport News, Va., Jan. 17.—The battleships Louisiana and New Hampshire bringing troops from France, and scheduled to arrive here Tuesday, have been diverted to New York. It was announced to-day that orders were given the ships by wireless last night.

The Louisiana has aboard the headquarters and supply companies and batteries A, B and C of the 69th coast artillery.

The New Hampshire is bringing a headquarters detachment and batteries D, E and F of the 69th coast artillery.

"BONE DRY" LAW IS PROJECTED

Which Will Make Possible Federal Enforcement of Prohibition of U. S. COMMISSIONERS ARE RECOMMENDED

An Adequate Search and Seizure Provision Will Be Included

Chicago, Jan. 17.—The twenty-five prohibition and anti-saloon league organizations have agreed on a "bone dry" federal act to be presented to Congress, according to a bulletin issued to-day from national anti-saloon league headquarters. Tentatively it includes the following provisions:

Appointment of federal commissioners to enforce the act, with power to prescribe rules and regulations for the manufacture and distribution of wine for sacramental purposes and alcohol for non-prohibitive purposes.

Fixing of adequate penalties for violation of the act.

The importation, exportation and possession of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes to be prohibited.

All intoxicating liquors illegally possessed and all implements used in their illegal manufacture to be contraband.

An adequate search and seizure provision.

The sale of alcoholic patent or proprietary medicine capable of being used as beverage to be surrounded by the same safeguards as the sale of alcohol.

Such other provisions as will "destroy every vestige of the beverage liquor traffic throughout the United States and its possessions."

WISCONSIN RATIFIES.

House To-day Completed Action Taken By the Senate Wednesday.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 17.—The legislature of Wisconsin to-day completed ratification of the national prohibition amendment. The vote in the House was 88 to 39. The Senate ratified the amendment last Wednesday.

NEW ENGLAND MEN ARE ON WAY HOME

Casual Companies from Massachusetts and Other States Are on Board the Melita—Other Transports Coming.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17.—The transport Melita, bringing 300 officers and 1,300 men from France, will arrive at Boston Jan. 21, and the transport Orizaba with 100 officers and 2,600 men, is due at New York Jan. 23.

Units about the Melita, the war department announced to-day, include casual companies composed of men from Massachusetts and other states; the 493d anti-aircraft and mobile hospital No. 39, both of which are destined for Camp Devens; a detachment from the army anti-aircraft school, a provisional anti-aircraft replacement battery, and 231 casual officers.

The Orizaba also is bringing about 300 sick and wounded and the 52d ammunition train complete; five casual companies of Maryland men, and one each from New Jersey and New York.

Other transports now on the way from France are: The Frances L. Skinner, due at New York Jan. 30, with one detachment casual company of New Jersey men; the Federal, due at Newport News Jan. 26 with one casual company of Virginia men; the Calamander, due at New York Jan. 24 with 36 casual officers, and the Monticello, due at Newport News Jan. 27, with two officers and 59 men of Pennsylvania.

FORMER ST. ALBANS MAN.

Archibald C. McKillop Died in Globe, Arizona.

St. Albans, Jan. 17.—News was received last evening of the death of Archibald C. McKillop, which occurred yesterday morning at Globe, Ariz., of pneumonia, following influenza. He was 30 years of age and the son of Rev. and Mrs. P. S. McKillop of this city. He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Helen Holmes, of this city; three sons, Archibald, Jr., David and Edwin; three brothers, W. S. of this city, W. L. of the Canadian Northwest and Donald of Buffalo, N. Y. He was a prominent lawyer of Globe. He was a graduate of the St. Albans high school, attended Wesleyan university, Harvard college and Harvard law school.

FAMOUS BATTLESHIPS GO INTO RETIREMENT

The Iowa, the Indiana, and the Massachusetts Are to Become Training Ships for the U. S. Navy.

Philadelphia, Jan. 17.—Having done their share in making naval history, the old battleships Iowa, Indiana, and Massachusetts are on their way to Norfolk to-day to become training ships. These old bulldozers, the pride of the navy a score or more years ago, will be used to train engineers and firemen and also to take training crews to southern waters. Later, it is said, they will go to the Panama canal.

CLAIMS \$2,000 DAMAGES.

Calais Woman Sues on Allegation of Being Accused of Theft.

The \$2,000 suit brought by Ruth M. Brown of Calais against Marie Wahlén has been entered in Washington county court, the action resulting from an occurrence Nov. 18 when a purse was lost and the plaintiff in this action sues because she alleges that the defendant accused her of taking the purse, also of shaking up the plaintiff and, finally, of locking her in a room.

The divorce suit of Myrtle V. Powers vs. Ora A. Powers has been entered in the same court.

HOUSE TAKES ITS OWN COURSE

Adopts Ratification Resolution and Lets Senate Resolution Alone

ADOPTION MADE UNANIMOUSLY TO-DAY

Will Send Its Resolve to the Senate in Regular Course

Acting with utter disregard of the action taken by the Senate yesterday afternoon, the Vermont House of Representatives to-day unanimously adopted a resolution in favor of the Sheppard amendment to the federal constitution for prohibition. In the meantime the Senate resolution for ratification which was transmitted to the House and referred to the House committee on federal relations, lies in undisturbed repose, and if the present temper of the House holds, will do so for the present.

The action by the House on its own resolve might be considered most orderly and without sign of flurry or excitement. The action started this morning when the resolution for ratification, which was introduced yesterday morning by Mr. Belknap of Rockingham, came before the House, on the calendar, under a favorable report from the House committee on federal relations. The joint resolution was immediately brought before the House and unanimously adopted, as already stated.

The next step in this program is for the House to notify the Senate and this resolution has been adopted. This will be done on the next legislative day, which will probably be next Monday. It will then be for the Senate to act on this joint resolution, referring the proposed federal amendment to the joint committee of both houses on federal relations, and if the Senate adopts this resolution, the joint committee will then proceed to hold hearings on the matter. In this case, it may be the middle of next week before the joint committee will be ready to report.

Following the adoption of the joint resolution regarding the referring of the Sheppard amendment, Mr. Cudworth of Londonderry moved that the report of the committee on rules be taken from the table. This was done and the report was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Aiken of Putney, the report of the committee on joint rules was also adopted.

A joint assembly was held at 11 o'clock to hear the report of the joint canvassing committee, on election of county officers and justices of the peace. The report was by unanimous vote dispensed with.

Vacancies in the office of justice of the peace, where the votes had been cast, were filled as follows: Walden, Harry L. Rogers and Arthur L. Beals; Guildhall, Joseph M. Pendrigh, George L. Fellows, Daniel Kellum and J. N. Hardy; West Fairlee, John H. Cook, Sheldon Miller and O. M. Hubbard; Morgan, Benjamin Williams; Wardsboro, W. W. Kidder.

Following the joint assembly this morning, the Senate reconvened and took up S. 5, an act relating to the fees and salary of town clerks. This bill was reported favorably from the committee on municipal corporations and a second reading was ordered. On motion of Senator Maurice, the third reading of the bill was made a special order for Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Senate bill No. 16, introduced to-day, provides for the creation of a large territorial commission and defines its duties, also appropriates a sum of \$250,000 for the construction and maintenance of the Vermont state barge terminal at the port of Burlington. The bill was introduced by Senator Tenney and referred to committee on conservation.

Other bills introduced in the Senate are:

By Senator Adams of Orange county, and referred to the committee on state and court expenses, an act to amend Sec. 7401 of the general laws, increasing the compensation of assistant judges, and to amend Sec. 3915 of the general laws, changing the month in which to prepare names of persons to serve as grand and petit jurors.

By Senator Vilas of Chittenden and referred to the committee on state and court expenses, an act to amend the pay of judges of municipal and city courts.

By Senator Howland of Washington county and referred to the committee on judiciary, an act relating to burglary with explosives.

By Senator Howland of Washington and referred to the committee on banking and insurance, an act relating to derogatory statements affecting banks.

By Senator Moulton of Chittenden and referred to general committee, an act to amend Sec. 641 of the general laws, relating to the membership of committee on budget, including the chairman of the appropriation committee of the Senate.

New Bills in the House.

The following bills have been introduced in the House:

By Mr. Webster of Swanton, an act granting to William F. Jones a ferry right across Lake Champlain between Windmill Point in Alburgh and Rouses Point. (For a period of 10 years, giving exclusive rights, but not to annul the rights now enjoyed by Thomas Mott of Alburgh.)

By Mr. Parmelee of Wilmington, an act to amend Sec. 5 of No. 91 of the acts of 1855, incorporating the village of Wilmington; providing for the election of additional officers, including auditor and trustees.

By Mr. Harris of Burke, an act to regulate the imposition of dependent children into the state and in amendment of and in addition to chapter 319 of the general laws relating to dependent children, neglected and delinquent children; providing that the board of charities and probation may have the same authority to inspect a private institution as a juvenile court.

By Mr. Moore of Bennington, an act to provide for the submission to the qualified voters of the state at the annual meeting in the year 1919, the question,

OHIO DEFIES WASHINGTON

Its Public Utilities Commission Rejects McAdoo's Order

ON INCREASE OF EXPRESS RATES

Officials in Washington Say That the New Rates Will Stand in Ohio

Columbus, O., Jan. 17.—The Ohio public utilities commission to-day formally rejected the order of W. G. McAdoo, as federal railroad director general, providing for an increase of zone express rates so far as its operation in Ohio is concerned.

The action was based solely upon failure to comply with Ohio laws requiring rate schedules to be filed with the Ohio commission thirty days before their effective date.

McAdoo's order for the proposed change was issued from the New York office of the American Railway Express company Dec. 15, and took effect Jan. 1. It was received by the Ohio commission Jan. 13.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17.—Railroad administration officials said to-day higher express charges would be collected in Ohio regardless of the action of the Ohio public utilities commission in declining to approve the new schedule. Their attitude was that the railroad contented authorized the president through the director general to put new rates into effect and did not authorize commissions to suspend.

VERMONT-NEW HAMPSHIRE RETAIL MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Vermont-New Hampshire Retail Merchants' Association is expected to be held in Barre next year if the recommendations made at the annual meeting just held in Manchester, N. H., are carried out.

The matter of selecting a place for the next convention was left to the executive committee with an expression of desire to meet in Barre if the national association decides to hold its next convention in Barre, as it has planned to do.

At the Manchester convention all the officers were re-elected as follows: F. M. Ober of Morrisville, president; D. O. Eaton of Lebanon, N. H., vice president; A. S. Bailey of Lancaster, N. H., second vice-president; E. W. Bailey of Manchester, N. H., secretary; and J. McNichols of White River Junction, treasurer. President Ober was unable to be present because of illness.

The association reported a successful year, and despite its youth, having been started only five years ago, is gradually growing to be one of the biggest organizations of its sort in New England. Its chief problem is that of protecting retailers from questionable methods of many small dealers and of promoting a co-operation that, in the past, has been very much lacking in the retail business.

Reports of both retailers and manufacturers assembled at the meeting showed that much progress had been made towards accomplishing this. The members got together on price scales and methods of conducting the retail business and plan to get out scale rates for distribution to all members.

Business prospects for the coming year were announced as better than ever before. With the increase in business, however, will go an increase in prices ranging from 20 to 30 per cent. This is made necessary by increased cost of rough stock, freight rates, labor and overhead expenses.

Among the retailers present were: T. J. Adams of White River Junction, John Anderson of South Royalton, J. Conly and E. Conly of Lebanon, N. H., J. J. Denmore of Burlington, F. Lamb of Randolph, C. A. Bennett of St. Johnsbury and R. P. Stevens, C. D. Palmer, C. M. Keefe and E. W. Bailey of Manchester, N. H.

DEATH OF MARY RIZZI

Occurred This Morning in Washington, D. C., Where She Was Employed.

A telegram was received in Barre this morning from Alderman and Mrs. Stephen Rizzi, who went to Washington, D. C., Wednesday on receipt of information that their daughter, Miss Mary Rizzi, was dangerously ill, stating that the young lady died at 1 o'clock this morning, the cause being pneumonia following an attack of influenza. Miss Rizzi went to Washington last May to accept a clerical position in the war department.

The arrangements for the funeral will not be known until the arrival of a night letter from Alderman and Mrs. Rizzi. It is known that the young lady's parents arrived there Thursday morning and were with their daughter until the end.

Mary Rizzi was born in East Barre June 11, 1898, but had spent most of her life in this city. She was graduated from Goddard seminary in the commercial course in June, 1916, since which time she had continued to reside in Barre until she left last spring for Washington. She had a large number of friends here who will be pained to hear of her death.

Besides her parents, she leaves one sister, Sylvia, who is employed as stenographer in the Peoples National bank, and two brothers, Arthur Rizzi of Chicago and Stephen Rizzi of Barre.

FLOWAGE CASE ARGUED.

Essex County Storage & Electric Co. vs. Victory Lumber Co.

In supreme court at Montpelier this morning the arguments were made in the case of Essex County Storage & Electric company vs. the Victory Lumber company. This is a suit developing out of the plaintiff starting condemnation proceedings upon the order of the public service commission granting the plaintiff authority to construct a large water storage pond for electrical purposes in Victory.

It is between Damon's crossing and Gallups mills and would flood territory owned by the lumber company, who took the case to supreme court.

The court has ordered a "judgment affirmed" in the case of Jennie Symes vs. Ray Fletcher, in which E. L. Laird made a motion to that effect earlier in the week. Nothing has been done toward advancing the case since it went to supreme court from Washington county, in which the plaintiff received judgment on a note. This afternoon the court took a recess until Tuesday morning.

MAY HAVE INFLUENZA.

Rep. A. L. Towles of Landgrove Taken to Heaton Hospital.

Representative A. L. Towles of Landgrove in the Vermont legislature was taken from his rooming place in Montpelier to Heaton hospital there to-day, suffering from what may be influenza.

Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs Harvey Goodell, who has been at the hospital, had nearly a normal temperature this morning. Mrs. F. V. Johnson, wife of the Somerset representative, who is at the hospital with pneumonia, is getting along well.

BROUGHT 6,000 CANADIANS.

The Olympic Arrived at Halifax To-day from Southampton.